

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01865 030901Z

12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DPW-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /032 W
----- 112214

R 030805Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6826
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1865

CINCPAC FOR POLAND

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LA AS CASC CPRS PROF US
SUBJECT: DEAN CASE: LPDR AND AUSTRALIA EXCHANGE LETTERS REGARDING
MISSING AUSTRALIAN, NEIL SHARMAN

REF VIENTIANE 0724

SUMMARY: IN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN
AND LPDR MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGARDING MISSING
AUSTRALIAN NEIL SHARMAN, THE LPDR SAID THEY HAD RELEAS-
ED CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS AND INDICATED THERE IS NO
HOPE OF FINDING SHARMAN ALIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. AUSTRALIAN CONSUL, GRAHAM COLLESS, TOLD CONSUL THAT
TWO WEEKS AGO THEIR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD
SENT A PERSONAL LETTER TO LPDR MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, PHONE SIPRASEUTH. THE LETTER INQUIRED ABOUT
THE FATE OF SHARMAN, WHO WAS CAPTURED WITH MISSING
AMCIT CHARLES DEAN. PHOUNE'S REPLY EXPRESSED LAO
SYMPATHY TO THE GRIEVING SHARMAN FAMILY. THE LETTER
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STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AREA WHERE SHARMAN WAS LAST

SEEN WAS AND STILL IS EXTREMELY INSECURE BECAUSE OF THAT REACTIONARY FORCES. THE LAO COULD NOT GUARANTEE SHARMAN WAS STILL ALIVE. PHOUNE ASSURED THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER THAT THE LPDR HAD NO MOTIVE WHATSOEVER FOR DETAINING A PRIVATE AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN. INDEED, PHOUNE EXPLICITLY STATED IN HIS LETTER, WHY SHOULD THE LAO CONTINUE TO HOLD AN AUSTRALIAN TOURIST WHEN THEY HAD ALREADY RELEASED THE IMPERIALIST AMERICAN PILOTS SHOT DOWN WHILE BOMBING LAO VILLAGES.

2. ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO THE LPDR REJECTED REQUEST AUSTRALIANS HAD MADE IN MARCH, REPORTED REFTTEL, TO SEND THEIR CONSUL TO INSPECT THE AREA WHERE SHARMAN AND DEAN WERE LAST SEEN. THE LPDR STATED THAT THE AREA WAS TOO INSECURE AND CONSUL'S SAFETY COULD NOT BE GUARANTEED. WITH THIS AS BACKGROUND, COLLESS FELT PHOUNE MEANT HIS MOST RECENT REPLY TO AUSTRALIANS AS THE FINAL LPDR STATEMENT ON THE AFFAIR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, DETENTION, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760298-0632
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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